

2004 CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES

TURN YOUR TREASURES INTO CASH



THE HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION presents the 5th Annual Citywide Garage Sale to be held June 3, 4 and 5. Watch for more information in the April Briefing. For more information, call Creekside Community Center at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

SPRING 2004 CURBSIDE CLEAN-UP

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

| Location | Regular trash day is: | Curbside pickup is Saturday: |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| East of Portland | Monday | April 17 |
| Portland to Penn | Tuesday | April 24 |
| Penn to France | Wednesday | May 1 |
| FRANCE TO NORMANDALE | Thursday | MAY 8* |
| West of Normandale | Friday | May 22 |

* PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.

CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER

LOCATED AT 9801 PENN AVENUE SOUTH, THE CENTER HOUSES THE HUMAN Service’s senior program. For more information on activities, call 952-563-4948; 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE AT CREEKSIDE ON A first-come, first-served basis to individuals who meet income-qualifying guidelines. Two programs at Creekside include:

ACCOUNTABILITY MINNESOTA

In partnership with FamiLink-Bloomington, AccountAbility Minnesota will provide tax assistance to individuals with incomes of \$25,000 or less and families with incomes of \$35,000 or less.

When: Mondays, February 2 - April 12
(except February 16).
Tuesdays, February 3, 10, 24 and April 6 and 13.
Time: 6 - 9 p.m.
When: Saturdays, February 7 - April 10.
Time: 9 a.m. - noon.

AARP TAX-AIDE

In partnership with the City of Bloomington, AARP Tax-Aide will provide free tax preparation services to middle- and low-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. The AARP Tax-Aide program prepares personal income tax returns including the 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ. Taxpayers with complex tax returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance.

When: Mondays and Wednesdays, February 2 - April 14.
Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Tax forms available at Creekside

Federal tax forms that can be photocopied are available at Creekside.

GET ON BOARD WITH LRT

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HIAWATHA LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM THAT WILL SOON begin operation from downtown Minneapolis to Bloomington. Jennifer Lovaasen will present slides of the route and stations, and answer questions about light rail operation at an AARP meeting on Monday, March 8, at 1 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Minnesota Valley Room at Creekside. Everyone is welcome to attend.

GET FIT

HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OFFERS A wide variety of fun fitness opportunities for older adults. Stay healthy and active with aerobics, tai chi, ballet, ballroom dance, yoga, walking programs, semi-annual dances and more.



LIFE IS LIKE A VALUED PATCHWORK

HUMAN SERVICES OFFERS EXCITING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES the fourth Wednesday of each month from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$3 and includes a continental breakfast. To register, call Creekside. For transportation, call 952-563-4948.

RETIREMENT FINANCE INFORMATION

February 25

Join Dennis Gerhardstein from the Minnesota Senior Federation to learn how to transition into retirement including information on social security, health care, estate planning and financial planning.

REAL ESTATE TRENDS IN TODAY’S MARKET

March 24

Rita Paris, Broker Associate with RE/MAX presents what’s happening in the real estate market and opportunities it may afford you. This program is free.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

BLOOMINGTON GETS A TASTE OF JAPAN

SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION SPONSORS CULTURAL EVENING

JOIN THE BLOOMINGTON Sister City Organization for an evening of food, fun and festivities that will include stories of travel to Japan, cultural interactive activities and a Japanese dinner. A raffle and silent auction will also be held. Taste of Japan is Friday, March 12, from 5 – 8:30 p.m. at Cedar Valley Church, 8600 Bloomington Avenue South. For more information, call 952-563-8735.



POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH

“BUY” INTO IT!

TODAY’S YOUTH FACE MANY CHALLENGES. Statistics on youth alcohol consumption, drug use, school violence, obesity, teen pregnancy and other issues are startling. Bloomington United for Youth (BUY) is comprised of community members who work to prevent youth from slipping into harmful lifestyles. BUY’s three pillars to achieve this goal:

1 Youth involvement

Projects that have generated positive results include Bloomington

Youth Coffeehouse Initiative, a youth-run, adult-guided, work-in-progress that will provide a safe place for teens to socialize and “Tomorrow’s Voices Today,” a youth-run cable tv show for teens.

2 Coalition building

Businesses, educational institutions, civic and non-profits groups, the faith community and the City of Bloomington formed a coalition dedicated to youth development.

3 Five Promises

The Five Promises are tools used to build and maintain the foundation of positive development of youth. See sidebar.

Windows of opportunity

Youth are a vital element in strengthening the community, the country and the future. BUY is designed to “open windows of opportunity” for youth and channel potentially harmful lifestyles into positive and meaningful energy. For more information, call David Miller at 952-563-4918.

BUY’S FIVE PROMISES IDENTIFIED FROM COLIN POWELL’S “AMERICA’S PROMISE FOR YOUTH.”

- Mentor** - Ongoing relationships with caring adults.
- Protect** - Safe places with structured activities for non-school hours.
- Nurture** - A healthy start and future by maintaining the mind and body.
- Teach and learn** - Marketable skills through effective education.
- Serve** - Opportunities to give back through community service.